

TECHNICAL PANEL
OF THE
NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

**Information Technology Infrastructure Fund
Recommendation to the NITC**

October 23, 2001

A. Statutory Responsibilities of the NITC

Funding for the projects listed below comes in part from the Nebraska Information Technology Infrastructure Fund (ITIF). This funding source invokes the following statutory requirement:

"No contract or expenditure for the implementation of an enterprise project may be initiated unless the commission has approved a project plan. The project plan shall include, but not be limited to, the objectives, scope, and justification of the project; detailed specifications and analyses that guide the project from beginning to conclusion; technical requirements; and project management. The commission may request clarification, require changes, or provide conditional approval of a project plan. In its review, the commission shall determine whether the objectives, scope, timeframe, and budget of the project are consistent with the proposal authorized by the Legislature in its allocation from the fund. The Commission may also evaluate whether the project plan is consistent with the statewide technology plan and the commission's technical standards and guidelines. Pursuant to 86-1510, the Chief Information Officer shall report the status of enterprise projects to the commission, Governor, and Legislature. In addition, the Chief Information Officer shall provide the Legislature a semiannual progress report for enterprise projects funded through the fund." Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 81-1196.01

B. Projects

New Projects Receiving ITIF Funds

1. Nebraska Crime Commission - NCJIS Access to Federal Data

NCJIS (Nebraska Criminal Justice Information System) was developed to provide secure, cost effective access to a variety of data for authenticated criminal justice users. It is an Internet based data mart that currently provides access to a variety of state and local data such as criminal histories (PCH), jail bookings, corrections holds, probationers, parolees, registered sex offenders and driver histories.

This project will build on NCJIS by developing a link to NCIC (the national crime database maintained by the FBI). NCIC is currently accessed by about 125 agencies in Nebraska via dedicated lines through the NSP switch. By bridging between the switch and NCJIS we will greatly expand the use and affordable access to NCIC and other state's data at the FBI. It must be noted that this will not replace the switch but instead provides another data path.

2. DAS Division of Communications - Public Safety Wireless System RFP Process

State Statutes 86-1803 through 86-1811 outlines the Legislature's instructions to the Division of Communications for the planning and procurement of a statewide public safety wireless communications system for state agencies and other Nebraska Public Safety entities. The legislation also provided for representation through the Wireless Communications Advisory Board, which was appointed in 1999, and is comprised of local and state public safety representatives to assist the DOC in the project.

The Division of Communications issued a Request For Proposals on June 29, 2001 to conduct the competitive procurement process for the statewide wireless communications

system. Federal Engineering, an independent consulting firm, has been hired to provide procurement support from issuance of the RFP through proposal evaluation and contract award. Federal Engineering has been under contract with the DOC since the beginning of the project.

After completion of the proposal evaluations, the DOC will review the evaluation scoring results and recommendations of the evaluation team. The DOC, with assistance from the Board, will determine whether the proposals received and scoring results are sufficient to proceed with contract finalization. The DOC, with assistance from the consultant, will begin finalizing a contract with the vendor. In the event an agreement is reached the Intent-to-Award will be issued. An Interlocal agency comprised of government entities will sign and administer the Contract as stated in the RFP. This Interlocal agency will work with the Nebraska Legislature to determine the funding method and receive Legislative Approval for this funding mechanism as necessary.

The expected outcome for this project is that a public safety wireless radio system design and contract will be approved and set for implementation. This system will meet the specific needs identified by the public safety community as defined in the Statewide Public Safety Wireless Communications Plan for Nebraska.

Previously Approved Project

3. DAS - Nebraska Information System (NIS) Project

The Nebraska Information System (NIS) project will modernize State government administrative business processes. These streamlined processes will be supported by a comprehensive packaged system that integrates information for decision-making, analysis, and action. The fully integrated suite of software applications will serve the financial, human resource, and administrative business processes and reporting needs of state government agencies. The NIS would replace the current centralized accounting and payroll systems and a number of agency specific subsidiary systems.

The Department of Administrative Services is the sponsor of the NIS, but the application will serve all state agencies.

PREVIOUS NITC ACTION

On May 23, 2001, the NITC approved, with conditions, the NIS project plan.

C. Technical Panel Recommendations and Report

1. Nebraska Crime Commission - NCJIS Access to Federal Data

The Technical Panel, having reviewed the project plan on October 23, 2001, recommends that the NITC **conditionally approve** the project plan. The Technical Panel recommends the following condition: "A revised budget, not exceeding the \$250,000 annual appropriation, is to be submitted to the Technical Panel."

2. DAS Division of Communications - Public Safety Wireless System RFP Process

The Technical Panel, having reviewed the project plan on October 23, 2001, recommends that the NITC **approve** the project plan.

3. DAS - Nebraska Information System (NIS) Project

The Technical Panel, having reviewed the progress report from the NIS Project on October 23, 2001, **reports** that adequate progress has been made toward complying with the conditions adopted by the NITC.